

me at the axil of the leaves, with a 17-30 cm long peduncle, flowers arranged interspersely on the rachis, the non-flowering part of the peduncle is 3-6.5 cm long; flower bearing part is much longer. *Flowers* bracteate, bracts 3 mm long, with a few hairs, leaf like, ovate. *Calyx* 5, united, cuplike 4 mm long, the posterior pair of teeth united very near to apex, other teeth as long as the tube or cup, sparsely hairy, *standard petal* elliptic, about 6 mm long, 5 mm broad, *wings* about 4 mm long, 1 mm broad, *keel petals* united at the apex, 4 mm long, 2.5 mm broad. *Stamens* 9 + 1, unequal, free stamen longer, anthers basifixed. *Ovary* stalked, superior, with a few ovules on marginal placenta, style short, stigma notched. *Fruit* a pod, sparsely hairy, 2-4 seeded, spongily septate between the seeds; 1.5 - 2.3 cm long, 5 mm broad.

Type locality: Wet lands—Coimbatore,

Holotype: India, Tamilnadu, Coimbatore, 2-xi-65, M. Chandra Bose 28823. Deposited

in Herb., S. Circle, B.S.I. (MH).

Paratypes: India, Kerala, Kottayam dt., Kumily to Thekkadi, 21.11.67, K. Vivekananthan 29373 (MH); Salem dt., Pennagaram river forest, 4.12.1964, E. Vajravelu 22433 (MH); Coimbatore dt., Poonachi - Anamalais, 24.10.1961, J. Joseph 13253 (MH); on the road to Shiruvani, K. Subramanyam 1415 (MH); Aliyar submergible area, 24.11.62, K. M. Sebastine 15344 (MH); Bolampatti, South fuel working circle, 7.12.1909, C.E.C. Fischer 1508 (CAL); Kamalapore Sept., 1910, A. Meebold 11285 (CAL).

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A NEW SPECIES OF SPIDER OF THE GENUS *PLATYTHOMISUS* SIMON (FAMILY: THOMISIDAE) FROM COORG, KARNATAKA, INDIA¹

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(With three text-figures)

While examining the spider collection from Coorg, I came across a new species of the genus *Platythomisus* Simon, which is described here. Though a considerable work has been done by Tikader (1960-1971) on Indian Thomisidae, only one species of this genus was

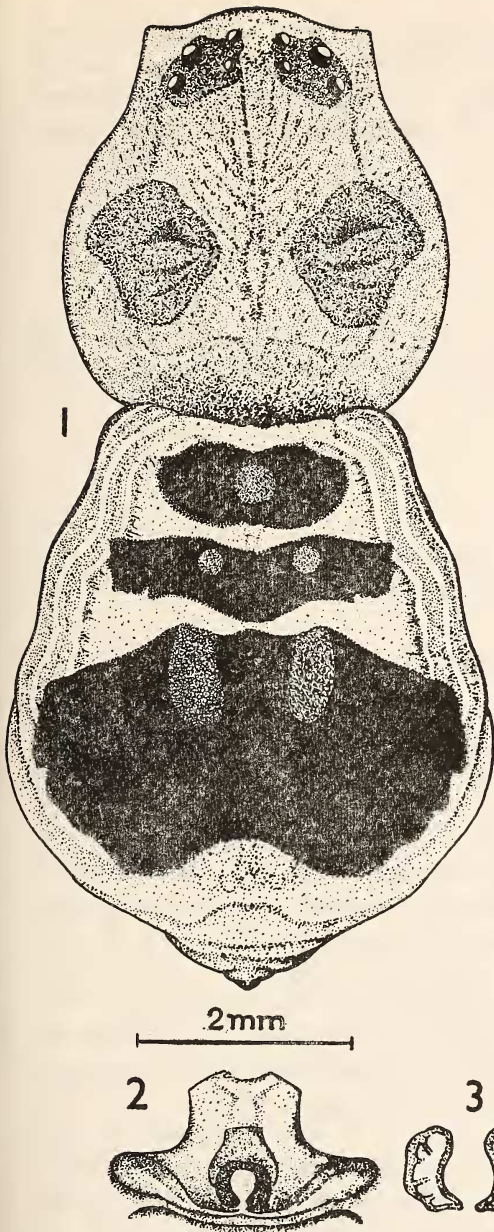
described by Tikader (1970). It is the second species of the genus *Platythomisus*.

The type specimen is deposited in the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

***Platythomisus sudeepi* sp. nov.**

General: Cephalothorax and legs brown, abdomen yellow with black transverse bars.

¹ Accepted July 1977.



Figs. 1-3. *Platythomis sudeepi* sp. nov. 1. Dorsal view of female, legs omitted; 2. Epigyne; 3. Internal epigyne.

Total length 9.31 mm. Carapace 4.00 mm long, 3.75 mm wide; abdomen 5.31 mm long, 4.50 mm wide.

Cephalothorax: High and rounded, a little longer than wide, dorsolateral side abruptly depressed and anterior portion conical, provided with four rounded black spots, and the eyes situated within the anterior black spots, posterior pair of spots larger. Both rows of eyes recurved, anterior laterals larger, posterior medians smaller and anterior medians pearly white. Sternum brown, longer than wide and triangular in shape. Legs I and II brown; longer and subequal. Femora III and IV light yellow in colour. Legs without spines and metatarsi of legs dorsolaterally yellowish-white, except apical portion.

Abdomen: Longer than wide, broad and conical behind, provided with three transverse black bars. First one provided with a light brown round spot on the middle, second with two round brown spots on the sides and the last bar is very broad and provided with two longitudinal brown lines on the sides. Ventral side black bordered with yellow colour, spinnerets brown at the base, encircled with yellow, Epigyne as in text-figure 2 & 3.

Holotype one female, *paratype* one female in spirit.

Type-locality: Pollibetta, Coorg, Karnataka, India. Coll. T. B. Fletcher, 27-x-1915.

This species is closely related to *Platythomis octomaculatus* Koch. However, *P. sudeepi* differs from *P. octomaculatus* in the structure of female epigyne. Abdomen dorsally provided with three transverse black bands but in *P. octomaculatus* abdomen dorsally provided with seven black patches.

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A NEW SUBSPECIES OF BAY OWL [*PHODILUS BADIUS*
(HORSFIELD)] FROM PENINSULAR INDIA

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(With a plate)

Two races of Bay owl (*Phodilus badius*) occur in the Indian sub-continent. The Sikkim Bay Owl (*P. b. saturatus*) ranges in the northeastern Himalayas from Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and then on to Burma and Malaya, intergrading with the nominate race. The second race, Ceylon Bay Owl (*P. b. assimilis*) is confined to Sri Lanka. Both subspecies are considered to be rare in their respective habitats and so far as the available literature is concerned (Hume 1873, 1875, 1876, 1877; Fairbank 1877; White 1877; Ferguson & Bourdillon 1903-04; Kinloch 1920-1923; Baker 1929; Ali 1935-37; Ripley 1961; Ali & Ripley 1969 and Henry 1971) this owl has not been recorded from peninsular India.

Recently one of us (M.A.R.K.) along with Dr V. S. Vijayan (presently Head of the Wildlife Division, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Trichur, Kerala), while on a survey of the Parambikulam sanctuary environs in the Western Ghats, obtained a specimen of a Bay Owl which, apart from being a new record for the region, appears to be distinct from the Himalayan and Sri Lanka birds. The specimen was sent to Dr S. Dillon Ripley at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.A., who very kindly compared it with specimens of *saturatus* and *assimilis* obtained by him from the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and the British Museum, London, and has confirmed our diagnosis. Considering the morphological differences and the ecological isolation of this bird from the other races, we hereby name it as

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